

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gatlin Hazard Fuels Reduction Project

The Reserve Ranger District will be implementing the 4,000 acre Gatlin hazard fuels projects starting Monday, January 20, 2006 through the month of September. All ignition operations will be contingent upon weather conditions for each project. The Gatlin project is located approximately seven miles South of Reserve, New Mexico. The area to be treated is located on the East side of the San Francisco River adjacent to Forest Road 141.

Objectives of the burn are to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by eliminating hazardous fuels, (ladder fuels, needle cast, down woody materials). The projects are expected to control encroachment of woody and tree species into natural openings, grasslands, and meadows. Effects of the burn will also result in an increase in the production of browse, forage and grass species, which will be an enhancement for wildlife habitat.

Smoke from the burn will linger in the area at night and early morning. Smoke is expected to disperse daily as daytime temperatures increase and prevailing winds establish. Visibility may be limited while burning operations continue.

For further information or concerns, please contact the Reserve Ranger District at (505) 533-6231

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